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12.00 hrs.

Title: The Speaker made an observation regarding the business transacted by the House during the week ending 24.08.2007.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, for your information I want to briefly recapitulate the main items of business transacted by the House during the last week.

Due to disruptions during Question Hour, out of the 100 Starred Questions, only 15 could be answered orally. Replies to the remaining Starred Questions along with the replies to 1026 Unstarred Questions were laid on the Table.

The House took up one Calling Attention regarding "situation arising out of the proposed formation of Salem Railway Division by bifurcating Palghat Railway Division" raised by Shri N.N.Krishnadas.

The House further discussed for about 3 hours and 50 minutes a Short Duration Discussion under Rule 193 regarding "situation arising out of floods in various parts of the country" raised by Shri Ananth Kumar. The discussion is yet to be concluded.

During the week, Members raised, as many as 63 matters of urgent public importance. Also, 59 matters were raised under Rule 377.

As regards the financial business, the House spent over 5 hours 33 minutes and 6 hours and 40 minutes on the discussion and voting on the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) and Railways for 2007-08 respectively before passing the related Appropriation Bills.

As regards the Legislative Business, the House had a combined discussion for about 2 hours 16 minutes on the Statutory Resolution moved by Shri Ramjilal Suman, disapproving the State Bank of India (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007 and the consideration and passing of the State Bank of India (Amendment) Bill, 2007, before the Bill was passed.

As regards Private Members' Business, as many as 18 Bills were introduced. The House resumed discussion on a Private Member's Bill, moved by Shri Chandrakant Khaire on 4th May, 2007, namely "The Promotion of Self-Employment Bill, 2006". It was discussed for about 1 hour 32 minutes before it was negatived. Another Bill, "The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2004" seeking to amend the Constitution with a view to provide gainful employment to every able bodied citizen who has attained eighteen years of age, moved by Shri Mohan Singh was discussed for about 43 minutes and the debate remained inconclusive.

The Departmentally Related Standing Committees presented 5 Reports during the last week.

While we lost 6 hours and 26 minutes due to interruptions and forced adjournments last week, the House sat late and worked extra for as many as 4 hours and 56 minutes to transact essential items of business.

I wish to convey my thanks to the hon. Members for their co-operation in the conduct of the proceedings.

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